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## **Incorporating Innovative Interior Design elements of Vintage Era: Introducing Old World Charm in the conventional Cigar Lounge Environment**

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### **Abstract**

The interest in cigar lounges developed in 1990's when cities and government entities began instituting smoking bans but provided exceptions for establishments that catered to smokers. The current study aims to design a space that provides a pollution free environment. This approach eliminates all the distracting elements and focuses on encouraging one's interaction with others in a cozy environment. Although, it has been ages that the concept of cigar lounges in Pakistan has become obsolete. The current study aims to revive cigar lounge & to design a deluxe space to fulfill the demands of a cigar Aficionado. This study is focused to design such a space, which is specifically remodeled and acquiesced to create the vibe of a cigar lounge. The importance of the cigar lounge is to stipulate an ethical and smoke free space for the people who treasure to soot a cigar. People who smoke cigar illustrate a status symbol that differs from the typical soul who doesn't smoke a cigar. They are prone to be more conscious about their style & status. So, it is a main purpose of the current study to match the personality of a cigar enthusiast through designing a cigar lounge with the ambiance itself. The representative words designating a cigar lounge are sophisticated, luxurious, casual and convivial. This study states that the interior of the cigar lounge is the blend of Gothic baroque, rococo and the Victorian era. Such styles create an ambiance, which define Grace, sumptuous, and prestige. The final expression of a cigar room is an opulence of vintage era, which aesthetically defines the absolute grandeur and exceptionality.

***Index Terms:*** Cigar Lounge, Convivial, Gothic, Luxurious, Victorian era, Vintage era.

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## I. Introduction

### A. Historical Background

Cigars have a long-lasting and a great classical antiquity. Usually, a cigar is considered as a tightly wound packet of tobacco that is ignited so that the smoke can be drawn in to the mouth. It is believed that they are invented by the ancient Mayans, who used to wrap the tobacco in either palm or plantain leaves.

However, a cigar bar (or lounge) is a business that caters to patrons who savor cigars [1]. While cigar bars have been a part of amusements throughout the years, the pure interest in them was developed in the early 1990s. In such times, authorities of cities and government entities began to target new anti-smoking drives to ban it completely. Nevertheless, the exceptions were also provided to cater to smokers. As in 1880s, the smoking space became an important portion for the republic.

Cigar itself is a gallant object whose stances and significance can only be described by the passionate people. Focusing on the cigar anatomy itself is a clear explanation of impudence and obscurity, as how the cigar is wrapped in three layers and stored in dusky humidors. Extra care and protection are needed in cigar to develop the piquancy, which is crucially important measure for bringing out the flavor of the cigar.

Interior design has a strong notoriety of Cigar lounges. Though Interior design is a method that provides its clients with a group of aesthetically attractive but effective solutions for an improved use of the area in an environment [2]. The main objective of an interior designer is to develop the client understanding by enhancing and managing the available space in the mediated surrounding. In this project cigar lounge is designed according to the needs and psychology of a cigar enthusiast. The interior of the cigar lounge is an absolute essential part in this research, as the ambiance works magically for setting the mood of the smoker.

### B. Cigar as a Symbol of Prestige

Cigar lounges have always been known as the masculine domains, as cigar also represents status symbol. Cigar is ultimately recognized with Fame, Fortune and Extravagance. Exclusively during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, the elite class was always observed with a cigar. Due to this reason, it was logically implanted in the consciousness of the world as a symbol of a person who is superior. The denomination of cigars formed a triumph story of several famous gentlemen akin as Fidel Castro, Churchill and John

F Kennedy. Through over several centuries' cigars have been observed as an icon of success [3].

The executive handcrafted cigars were constantly in demand by the Upper class/Elite class for the finest or the arduous contentment to soot a cigar. Hundreds of celebrity/famous people who are cigar smokers took the representation of smoking a cigar as the lifestyle of the higher class and forwarded this legacy to the elite world successfully. Through this practice cigar was perceived as a power icon for the society. As the time passed, cigar rooms started becoming the part of the convention as they were present in almost every famous Hotels, casinos, bars, or clubs. These amusement bodies are indulged by the aristocracy or the cigar aficionado and this inheritance still persists to this day.

#### *C. Psychology of Cigar Smoker*

There is so much that could be learnt from the cigar smoker. The way cigar smoker holds the cigar can tell a lot about their humor and personality. In the early 1920's there was an article issued by the Italian directory, consisted of an inquisitive article named as "Sigaromanzia" which described twelve positions of the hand holding the cigar with descriptions about corresponding psychological features of the cigar smoker. The features are: A good debater, cautious/thoughtful, Gutsy/touchy, outward-bound, sophisticated/ostentatious, composed/gritty, stubborn/egotistic, practical/ malicious, smarter, wise, guarded/questioner and hospitable [4].

#### *D. Interior and Ambiance*

An impeccable place for smoking a cigar is as necessary as a perfect place for the dinner. While discerning about the cigar lounge through interior perspective the first imagination that occurs in one's intellect is the dark, warm, bold, and sophisticated and luxury Interiors. Cigar lounges cannot be minimalist, as it does not match the anatomy of cigar itself and mainly does not reflect the intellectual thinking of a cigar aficionado. The purpose of this study is to elaborate certain alluring features in designing a cigar lounge such as the walls, floorings, furnishings, and accessories with a masculine color palette. These colors are most probably bold, rich and warm associating these characters with different fabrics, leathers, wood, metals and lighting.

For setting an ambiance and a person's state of mind one object that changes the whole setup is the presence of pleasing/soulful sound such as Music. Music is a source that humanizes sentiments in life. The best genre

of music that seemingly corresponds in a cigar lounge is “Jazz”. Jazz music has a rich amalgamation of cultural legacy and is a very sophisticated form of music. It was originated in African American communes during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century same as cigar bars [5]. The affiliation of cigar bar and the jazz music goes well hand in hand. Famous jazz singers such as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis has great songs, which define pure Jazz music.

When talking about Cigar fanatics they have their preferential cigar lounges, whether it’s a luxury cigar lounge in a distant city they have visited or a café down the streets where they gather with friends. Environment plays a key role in a cigar lounge, as environment is a critical factor for pleasing cigar aficionado and ensure that the people will visit again. Factors as impressive or mood enhancing characters such as color, design and illumination impacts customers, and have an effect on positive recommendations and repeat visits.

Different personalities of a cigar lounge that portray the main objective in a very aesthetic manner are “sophisticated”, “luxurious”, “casual” and “convivial”, so these are the qualities that when combined together in an ambiance of a cigar lounge creates a well harmonized and aesthetically pleasing environment. Thus, from location to ventilation and further to interior décor, everything contributes to the visitor’s feelings and experience regarding cigar lounge

### *E. Opulent Styles*

As in this Project cigar lounge is designed as a luxury space for the cigar aficionado to visit and indulge in smoking cigar of their choice. The concept of the project is the revival of cigar lounges and to recreate a space that enhances the status and matches the attitude of cigar enthusiast. It can also be considered as a revival of coffee bar with the best collection of aromatic coffee beans from around the world, a library with compilation of vintage books and games such as deck of cards and chess. These amusements are essentially incorporated to elongate and develop connection between people and helps in enhancing the ambiance of cigar lounge [6].

The lounge is designed by bringing the old-world charm in to existence. The current study presents such a design of cigar lounge which is a combination of combining different eras such as the Dark era known as “Gothic”, the era that defines luxury “Baroque”, the era of exuberant

decoration “Rococo”, and the era of sophisticated designs the “Vivacious Victorians”. This combination makes the ambiance more promising for the designing of cigar lounge. Mixing and matching these magnificent eras and creating a splendid exquisite interior for the project of cigar lounge. These eras have different characters in them that are explained as follow.

*1) The Gothic Era (The Dark Age):*

The gothic era is generally an architectural style, which appeared in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD also known as the Dark era. As a modern-day spectator, gothic design can be symbolized as gloomy, dark, ruminating, evocative and highly aesthetical. Gothic in interior has its own unsurpassed aspect that differentiates its interior from other styles. Gothic interior features are very permissive are the rib vaults, fireplaces and the very aesthetically appealing mosaic glass window also known as stained glass window. Thus, window framing and the color glazing on the glass implicate a very special character to the ambiance. The furniture of the gothic era used to be very crafted and incrustated with detailing.

The equipment's in gothic used to be very massive and compact so it was very difficult to transfer from one abode to another. The elements of the Gothic era that are used in this interior project of cigar lounge are the gloomy environment to create a cultured atmosphere with the combination of the mosaic glass window to uplift the aura of the ambiance and some elements from the furniture and upholstery.

*2) Baroque (The Era of Extravagance):*

Baroque interior design, which is also known as to have highly extravagant furnishings, grace and heavily crafted interior décor, appeared during the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Italy. It consisted of enormously intricate and opulent style, which was highly luxurious, and only upper class/elite class could practice it to show their status symbol. Baroque styled transformed everything from architecture to interior and further to the music. Baroque style was bolder and abundant as compared to its similar style Rococo. The baroque of today in interior design of several interior spaces' objective is to accentuate the wealth of the possessors.

The characteristics that define baroque style are bold, vibrant with contrasting colors, luxurious linens, sculptures and the lush furnishings and heavily crafted walls and high ceilings that are used in interior spaces to enhance the outlook of the ambiance. Symmetry, rigidness and exactness

were the most prominent elements of this particular style. Baroque décor pursues oomph and affectionate magnificence. The elements of the baroque era that are used in this interior project of cigar lounge are the bold and vibrant colors.

### 3) *Rococo (The Era of Exuberant Décor):*

Rococo also known as “late Baroque”, appeared during the 18<sup>th</sup> century in Paris, France. The word rococo in French means curl shell, as this is the most popular motif in the rococo period. Rococo was created in reaction against the proportion, grandeur and strict rigidity in design. “Elegance” was the key feature of this era. The aesthetic features of rococo interior were bright and airy which were achieved through the use of pastel colors harmonizing with ivory pearl white, blue and white, pink and green, silver and most probably gold.

The walls became smaller in height as it created an intimate atmosphere. Mirrors, gold-plated ornaments, crystal chandeliers, lamps, different light wall fixtures, tapestries, multi layering of different and expensive textiles, and upholstery. These elements were filling the room with distinguishing furniture with thin legs for the splendor enhancement of the ambiance. The elements of the rococo era that are used in this project of cigar lounge are the multi layering of different and posh textiles, upholstery, and different light features that are used as definite component to enrich surrounding.

### 4) *Vivacious Victorians\_ the Era of Sophisticated Design:*

Victorian era came in to existence during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century by the Bruisers. Victorian style was named after the Queen Victoria, who ruled during this period. The style came in to being as the rapid growth of industry. People became richer swiftly, which increased the demand for luxurious residence, exquisite interiors as a sign of one’s superiority and good taste. Moreover, it is a mixture of different cultures, lifestyle, art and people and of distinctive foreign interior styles such as most probably gothic, baroque, and rococo.

The characteristics of interior elements in Victorian style is the presence of opulent library, fire places, high walls, bold wallpapers, heavy drapes, furniture crafted with dark precious woods. In addition, the sense of proportion, combination of different interior styles, existence of old classical aura in interior, high quality, reliability, presence of flowers, and lavish décor ornaments are also considered as part of these traits. The

elements of Victorian style that are used in this project are opulent library, furniture with dark pretentious woods, bold wallpapers, and heavy drapes to make an ambiance Regal and mark its presence.

The Gothic, baroque, rococo and Victorian interior design when combined in this cigar lounge provides with the attribute of grace, drama and elegance. Different selection of colors from tint to shade, leathers, fabrics, wallpapers, crafted furniture dramatic lighting and other accessories are incorporated to bring depth in the atmosphere.

These interior styles create and appropriate strong look of lavishness, grandeur classiness, highly detailed interiors, and an aura of magnificence, which are used, in this interior project of cigar lounge from which different specific elements are mixed and matched to create a statement ambiance in to the opulence of old world charm [7].

#### *5) Character Lighting:*

Lighting plays an essential part in creating an ambiance or setting a mood. The lighting of a cigar lounge should work as providing relaxation and peace for a person who smokes a cigar. Light also leaves a psychological influence of a cigar fanatic. A cigar fanatic cannot enjoy a cigar in harsh lighting, as it does not match the psychology of the cigar aficionado [8]. They want a space that allows them to smoke a cigar whole heartedly to get the pleasure, as cigar cannot be smoked as pleasurable or peacefully in a sharp lighting or a chaotic environment and probably it does not make sense. The right lighting design of a cigar bar can also make a space more welcoming and cozier than an irregular lighting concept.

Lighting also helps to visualize and enhance different features of interior soothingly. Furthermore, the right lighting design can make every feature visually appealing. The lighting of the cigar lounge should be in warm tones as it matches the anatomy of a cigar itself. The warm/dim lighting gives the ambiance the feel of coziness and indulgence. Candles also play an important part in enhancing the mood and it romanticize the environment. Lighting features includes candleholder, a chandelier from the gothic and Victorian era, wall light fixture or three-dimensional lighting fixture. Hence, the mix and match of different tones of warm lighting amplifies the whole ambiance and mood.

#### *6) Ventilation Through Smoke Eaters:*

Ventilation system or the smoke emitting system is one of the essential key measures in cigar lounge. As environment is a crucial factor in pleasing



guests and ensuring that they revisit. One of the most important features in the cigar lounge is the device known as smoke eater to eradicate smoke and to make a pleasing environment. As the smoke acts as a pleasant whiff for the cigar aficionado, but dense fog of smoke could destroy the pleasure of the cigar smoker and even the people who work there.

Also, excessive smoke could create difficulty in breathing, chaos, undue odor and unpleasant environment. So, commercial smoke eaters play a vital role in making the environment comfortable and breathable; and make it pleasurable for the cigar aficionado to soot a cigar without any complications.

#### 7) *Luxury Services:*

The cigar lounge consists of different luxury services that combine the concept of a cigar aficionado with its status symbol. The luxury services provided in this cigar lounges make the visitor's experience more appealing, pleasant and satisfactory. Two types of lounges are designed a) public lounge and b) private lounge in this particular cigar lounge. The public cigar lounge is more casual and self-serviced than that of a private or the VIP lounge. The private lounge or the VIP lounge provides with the wait staff or a personal butler whose knowledge is beyond cigar.

In addition to these luxuries, different services are also provided for the entertaining purposes. These luxuries include a library to make smoking of a cigar more intense by reading; a beverage and coffee bar to indulge in the aromatic coffee, different drinks and scrumptious snacks; and intellectual games such as deck of cards, chess, and a pool table etc.

#### 8) *Creating a Smoldering Heaven:*

The cigar lounge interior or the ambiance should be inviting, pleasing and soothing for the cigar enthusiasts. A faultless place for smoking is as necessary as perfect place for the dinner. The most prominent characteristics in creating or defining prestige ambiance is the selection of materials, color pallet, proportions, combination of different styles, furnishings, accessories, lighting and humidors to store the cigar. Furthermore, the sufficient ventilation system should be selected for smoke emission, and entertainment facilities that should possibly reflect the ambiance. Also, the emotions of a cigar aficionado are highly influenced by it. These elements will surely enhance the pleasure of smoking a cigar for a cigar fanatic in this sort of ambiance for this cigar lounge [9]. As this interior

project of a cigar lounge and its fascinating features will definitely work as the revival of cigar lounges that have never been observed in Pakistan.

**TABLE I**  
Project Brief

<b>Project Objective</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Proposed Site Location</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Style</b>	<b>Class/ Status</b>
Incorporating innovative design in cigar lounge environment through the interior of vintage era/ old world charm.	Entertainment Purpose	MM Alam Main Boulevard, Lahore, Pakistan.	1 canal.	Vintage	Blend of four vintage eras (Gothic, Baroque, Rococo, & Victorian).	Upper Middle class & Elite class.

#### 9) *Project Description:*

According to numerous researches Pakistan lacks several entertainment spots. This is because of the fact that Pakistan is a developing country, so with the passage of time new design concepts shall be introduced gradually to build several places in the Entertainment industry for its local community. Researching entertainment spots in Pakistan, there is a new concept launched in the market. A concept that is very common in Tokyo and many other countries around the world is that the food is served on the conveyor belt. This concept is now introduced in Islamabad (Pakistan) for the very first time, named as “Slider zone”. This decision has introduced a very popular entertainment spot for the people and a unique initiative towards the entertainment industry.

In Pakistan, we have plenty of cafes and restaurants that relate to each other through food, beverages and mainly through interiors. While researching and observing Pakistan entertainment industry we lack spaces for “Cigar smoking” or for “Cigar fanatics”. An important feature in cigar lounges is to decline air pollution in the environment. For this purpose, proper ventilation systems along with smoke eaters are introduced so that the cigar smokers would not feel suffocated and have breathing issues. The initiative of this project is the new concept to provide a specific luxury space to a cigar aficionado that provide cozy environment along with the element of sophisticated vintage interiors.

To be brief, the ambiance of the cigar lounge is created by combining the old vintage era such as the Victoria, baroque, rococo, and gothic that matched the personality of the cigar aficionado. This project is a great inventiveness for the entertainment industry of Pakistan. As there is no such place that provides a space, which reflects the character of the cigar smoker. So, this is a commendable initiative towards the development of new concepts in Pakistan.

## II. Literature Review

As there are no projects of cigar lounges in Pakistan, but internationally many practices have been developed. In this article, different perceptions of the project are briefly examined with a number of numerous artistic and international project. The case studies mentioned here are as follow:

- A. The Wellesley Cigar lounge, Terrace London;
- B. Tynska Bar and Books, Prague; and
- C. Club Macanudo, New York.

### *A. Case-Study 1: The Wellesley Cigar lounge, Terrace London*

Wellesley cigar terrace/lounge is known as Europe’s best hotel cigar lunge/terrace. Overseeing and indulging the Royal Hyde Park on amongst the allure of Knightsbridge, the Wellesley associates refined extravagance through fascinating glamour, opulence and exceptional services that are never compromised. The Wellesley is a 1920’s townhouse exquisitely reconditioned with a modern influence on the Art deco style. However, the building initiated its life as the corner tube station in Hyde Park, which was planned by Leslie Green [10]. The building was shut in 1937 but the facade still relics to be the element of the exiting hotel.

Fox Linton associates design with the existing building of Wellesley, who concedes the efficient relation with the buildings of musical legacy and

reinstated with a prevailing take on Art deco style. It is an epitome of contemporary luxury combined with traditional extravagance in one of the London's most significant locality. This fresh design applauds the iconic position of The Wellesley, and pays tribute to the historic architecture of the building, though providing seclusion to the cigar terraces consumers and visitors.

### *1) Interior of the Wellesley Cigar Terrace:*

Art deco is the key style that is mixed with the traditional luxury in the cigar terrace for creating an epitome of boogie ambiance that defines personality and grandness [11]. The Wellesley has staked comprehensively on the outlook of cigar smoldering in London, dedicating exquisite facade of the Knightsbridge hotel to the indulgences of the Cuban tobacco.

Giuseppe Rufo, the director says that they were thinking about a space, at a different dimension, "that the space which is designed indoors but gives a feel or experience as one is smoking outdoors". To bring that innovative idea to life glass structure was used to bring the feeling of inside out. As for this specific idea every piece of glass was custom made. Then one thing that was lingering in the mind was the privacy of the lounge. In order to maintain the privacy, a special metal artwork was custom made with the finest metal without any screws or bolts that could ruin the outlook of the exquisite artwork. The artwork was completed in 12 months by an artist Lee Simons who was famous for his artwork in metal. His mystique art caused curiosity among the observants. Translucent glass columns and beams; cantered glass panels and the bronze fins which are vertically covered around the terrace are specifically designed in such an exotic way that it matches the caliber of the cigar aficionado. The quite exotic haven with the breeze of fresh air that flows in providing some of the ventilation needed and thus makes the experience if inside out joyful and meaningful.

### *2) Art Deco\_ the Era of Golden Industrial Era:*

The Art deco style was originated in France during the 1920's and is also known as the golden industrial age.

Art deco is renowned for its personified luxury, its main characteristics are geometric elements with sharp edges and bold curves. There is a maximum use of manmade materials such as stainless steels, copper, chrome, plastic along with the natural material such as wood to make the ambiance a bit cozy and sophisticated in design. Moreover, the use of indoor plants, precious animal skin, rich leather, the usage of bold colors with sharp

contrast such as the use of gold, chrome, silver tones, black and white; and even use of neutral colors and different reflective materials were used such as glass and mirrors to create a statement environment for the cigar fanatic to smoke a cigar [12].

### *3) Interior Analysis of the Case Study:*

The interior of the Wellesley cigar lounge, terrace is a pure example that personifies Art deco Style. The characteristics of art deco style used in this cigar terrace lounge are as follows:

- A detailed study about the psychology of the cigar fanatic with the ambiance.
- The use of geometric shapes such as the bold curve used in the metal artwork for the privacy purposes.
- The bold color scheme of tints and shades of blue contrasting with white and use of chrome and gold color to amplify the space.
- The use of bold geometric patterns in the flooring.
- The use of leather in furniture.
- Use of polished materials gives a refined feel.
- Use of statement furniture.
- Use of cozy/warm lighting.

The designer has great sense of realism in the current project. As the space is designed with such perfection and proportions that each and every element speaks for itself and mainly for the indulgence of the Cigar enthusiast.

### *B. Case- Study II: Tynska Bar and Books, Prague*

‘Tynska cigar Bar and Books’ was established in 2004 in the heart or the historic center of the capital city of Czech Republic, Prague. Prague is known as one of the liveliest and magnificent European cities, equaling London, Paris and Rome [13]. Tynska cigar bar and city has the capacity of up to 60 guests. The cigar bar is designed depicting old world charm by incorporating Victorian and Gothic style or British royal emphases. It serves one of the widest range of cigars in Europe and various famous celebrities such as James Bond has also visited it. This lounge is said to be every cigar aficionado’s dream to pay a trip and soot a cigar with the ambiance of magnificence.

#### *1) Interior of Tynska Bar and Books:*

The interior of Tynska bar and books is a definition of old-world charm. The ambiance gives life to the surrounding with its magnificent, cozy and

indulged interior. The leaped copper ceiling, dark wood paneling, and leather accent furniture were the characteristic of tynska bar and books, which were influenced from the Victorian and gothic era that set the atmosphere warm and cozy, and is an ideal place for the cigar fanatic. One of the main features that this bar consisted was the signature library.

It has an enormous book shelf encrusted in the wall, thus, giving it a majestic feel of excellence and is considered as a haven for the book enthusiast. The charm that made the space soulful was the use of candle as accent lighting that made the space romantic and cozy with the Victorian and gothic influence to relish a cigar experience. The overall lounge amplifies and radiates the mood of peace and comfort.

### *2) Victorian and Gothic Style:*

Victorian gothic interior is all about dramatic luxury and elegance and all about defining a statement. The characteristics of magnificent interior of a Victorian and Gothic interior are as windows draped in expensive fabrics, crafted furniture, detailing's in décor. Dark wood paneling on the walls is their prominent feature along with the wallpapers of different textures and patterns. Moreover, the colors of the wallpaper are rich in color such as burgundy, gold, and black. Lighting was one of the main features in adding drama and sophistication in interior. As candles were the main element for lighting purposes. The heavy metal chandelier with candles or carved wood candle stands added soul to the environment [14]. The ceiling also defined as boss architecture that was made up of stone and wood. The vaulted ceiling that defines a space with oomph and extravagance was also a prominent feature. This space would be a perfect dream for a cigar aficionado.

### *3) Interior Analysis of the Case Study:*

The interior of Tynska cigar bar and books is a perfect statement that elaborates the Victorian and Gothic style or the old-world charm. The characteristics of Victorian and gothic style applied in tynska cigar bar and books are:

- The use of wood paneling to create warmth and coziness.
- The use of pastel floral wallpaper that looked worthy/suitable with the wood paneling as an element from the Victorian era.
- The sophisticated curved mahogany wooden bar chair with red leather upholstery the round table and the green and leather sofa seating.

- The use of color red and green indulging in the Victorian and Gothic style.
- The dramatic warm lighting/ yellow lighting.
- The use of candles to create a romantic vibe.
- The huge wall encrusted bookshelves depicting the old-world charm.
- The use of numeral vintage photo frames.
- The use of mirrors to make the space look more inviting and to make and illusion of larger area.

The designer had a great sense of space planning or how to make a small space look broader through different illusions achieved by several interior aspects and the warmth brought through the old world charm glorifies the space which enhances the mood and makes its ambiance perfect for the cigar enthusiast to soot a cigar [14].

### C. Case-Study III: Club Macanudo, New York

‘Club Macanudo’ is a sophisticated and classy luxury cigar bar, which is oriented in the core of New York’s Upper East Side. Club Macanudo was developed/discovered by Edgar M. Cullman & Jr. Cullman. By observing the demand of cigar scene in New York, Cullman decided to build a cigar bar in May 1995. Cullman believed in building a space for cigars only, where everything else is subordinate. The building was an Italian restaurant during 60’s and 70’s; it was most popular among the elite class of New York [15]. The cigar bar was designed by Ellie’s interior design firm, and was managed by Philip Darrow. The cigar bar was a dramatic success in New York.

#### 1) Interior of Club Macanudo:

Club Macanudo is the first cigar bar in the city (New York), which was designed specifically for the cigar aficionados. It catered around 400 to 500 people each night. Ellie’s interior firm designed the interior. Elements used in the bar are wooden Indian flanks, the horse shoe shaped bar, the leather couches depicting the art deco style, cocktail tables top created with glass and marbles, the wallpapers were gild by the Indian lithographs and were pressed by real Tobacco sprigs.

The high ceilings were not demolished but retained which were present before at the Italian restaurant “Quo Vadis”. The windows were made up of glass and were translucent. The bar included massive paintings of renowned cigar fanatics both living and dead. One of the features that make this bar different from another bars in New York is the presence of best humidors and a perfect ventilation system to withdraw the smoke out of the bar and

make it comfortable for the cigar sooter to smoke [16]. The cigar bar portraits a place which provides the feel of warmth and relaxation in the environment.

### *2) Indian Interior Style:*

Indian interior style is all about interesting modish and lavish interiors. India is known for its rich diverse history, art and culture. The use of rich vibrant color pallet, intricate wood detailed furniture, the wallpaper or the wall paint in lighter tones and the décor elements are the key features of Indian interior style.

Typical Indian interior style usually has backgrounds that have earthy color pallet such as brown, tan, husk, umber, bronze and beige [17]. The ceilings are higher and are lighter in color. The furniture is probably handcrafted in solid wood with intricate carvings and curved edges. The common flooring used in Indian interior style are tiles, marbles, and granite, which are also easy to maintain. The décor in Indian interior style are usually the statues that are made up of mostly bronze, terracotta and clay. Moreover, the different hangings, lanterns and hand-woven fabrics that are weaved, block printed and embroidery are used as element of décor in interior. Different pattern and motifs are used in paintings such as Rajasthan paintings that are used in the embellishment of Indian style interior. These Indian interior elements when used in designing of a cigar bar create a magnificent space and a dream of cigar aficionado.

### *3) Interior Analysis of the Case Study:*

Interior of club Macanudo is a true example of Indian style interior and a bit of art deco influenced in the furniture. The Indian interior style amps up the surrounding with the old-world charm and makes the environment warm and cozy just as the anatomy of the cigar. The characteristics of Indian interior style and art deco style applied in club Macanudo are:

- The presence of high ceiling with lighter color tone.
- The horseshoe shaped bar counter.
- The use of wooden Indian flanks.
- The use of leather sofa an element of the Art deco style.
- The use of dark wood furniture.
- The use of Indian lithographs/ paintings on the walls.
- The use of marble and glass top, an element from the art deco style.
- The warm lighting that makes the environment cozy.
- The use of statues for the décor.
- The use of translucent windows.



- The consumption of heavy drapes.

The designer had a great approach of reconstructing the space and re designing it by keeping the certain original elements and using them in the space. The space was designed in a very charismatic way that made the bar an ideal spot for the cigar aficionado.

### III. Development Method

As mentioned earlier that Pakistan is a developing country, which does not offer many creative entertainment or relaxation spots for its community. Designing a cigar lounge was an initiative towards the country as the revival and the public who are cigar aficionado. Keeping environment free from air pollution and providing an impeccable space and ambiance that matches the intellect of a cigar smoker.

Designing a cigar lounge was different from designing a café. The main purpose of designing a cigar lounge was to create a space that was meant for relaxation and obtaining pleasure by smoldering a cigar [18]. Creating an ambiance of the cigar lounge was challenging, as the main key point was to develop an ambiance that matched the anatomy of the cigar itself. The ambiance is designed by combining different opulent styles from several eras and bringing the old-world charm in the ambiance. The style of different eras including Gothic era, Baroque era, Rococo era and the Victorian era enhanced and bought soul in the ambiance.

Famous Cigar lounges around the world understand the requirement and intellect of cigar enthusiast. One of the famous cigar lounges ‘Tynska Bar and Books’ in Prague is a great example of what a cigar aficionado desires. In Pakistan there is no such place that is specifically designed for the cigar fanatics. One of the essential features in the cigar lounge was the presence of ventilation system. As to make an environment smoke free and comfortable so that the client visits again, it is important to make the surrounding a place where the smoke does not kill the vibe of the smoker [19]. Secondly, the purpose of designing a cigar lounge is to make a smoldering heaven for the cigar connoisseur.

#### A. Materials Used in Walls

##### 1) Stained Glass:

##### a) Defining stained glass:

Stained glass is a material that refers to a colored glass which is mostly handcrafted. In the early ages basically during the gothic period (12<sup>th</sup>

century AD) stained glass was used as windows of churches. Through the passage of time the use of stained glass applied for several decoration and art purposes. Stained glass is a great element that adds drama to the ambiance and is used as an accent feature in the space [20]. They are easily available in Pakistan and are customizable.

*b) Advantages of stained glass:*

- ❖ Adaptable: Stained glass are adaptable as they are not only used on windows but can be applied anywhere such as on walls, as big mural and on various creative elements.
- ❖ Secrecy: Stained glass provide privacy than other glass that are opaque, as stained glass are decorative and colored and offer secrecy than the normal glass.
- ❖ Pleasing: Stained glass helps in creating a dramatic ambiance. It adds visual interest in the space and act as a signature feature.

*c) Disadvantages of stained glass:*

- ❖ Partial light: The light passes less through the stained glass, as the design and the colors on the stained glass are creating the space darker and warmer.
- ❖ Excessive use: stained glass used as an accent element makes the space pleasing. If the stained glass is overly used, it may feel absurd and displeasing.
- ❖ Thwarted use: stained glass provide privacy but not completely. It gives a blurry projection both in and out.

*2) Paints:*

*a) Defining paints:*

Paint is a colored liquid material which dries out as a thin layer is spread over an area. Paint is a standard material that is used for different decorative purposes or in different textures and designs.

*b) Matte finish paint:*

Flat paint finish is also known as matte paint finish. As the matte paint finish has less amount of sheen and does not reflect the light as it absorbs it. Matte paint finishes are subtle and are used as bold finishes in interior creating an oomph in the ambiance.

*c) Advantages of matte finish:*

- ❖ Matte finishes absorb light and gives a very subtle finish to the space.

- ❖ Matte or flat finishes cover faults in the area and its application is smooth.
- ❖ Matte finishes are an amazing choice for ceilings, walls in the lounges, dining room ETC.
- ❖ Matte or flat finishes can easily be touched up, from the area where it's not perfect.
- ❖ Matte finishes are easily available in Pakistan from different brands.

*c. Disadvantages of matte finishes:*

- ❖ Matte and flat finishes hold dirt and cannot easily be cleaned because it removes the matte paint finish.
- ❖ Matte paint finishes are not suitable in overly crowded spaces. Such as in washrooms kitchen and kids' room.

*3) Wallpapers:*

*a. Defining wallpaper:*

Wallpaper is a material used in interior decoration mainly for the walls. Wallpaper are used since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Wallpaper were the substitute of the expensive tapestries which were used by riches only. They are used to add aesthetic value and mostly used on as accent walls to amplify the focal point of the space [21]. Wallpapers applied on the wall by using wallpaper solution, glue or adhesives. Wallpapers are of various types, such as liner wallpaper, printed wallpaper, vinyl wallpaper, foil wallpaper, flock wallpaper, Mylar wallpaper and bamboo wallpaper.

*b. Vinyl wallpaper:*

Vinyl wallpaper is the most durable and thick wallpaper which is commonly used in interior designing. It is synthetic man-made plastic material that is composed printed-paper with thick layer of vinyl. Hence, they are easily maintained.

*c) Advantages of vinyl wallpaper:*

- ❖ Vinyl wallpaper are available in wide range of difficult designs and finishes and can also be customized.
- ❖ They are several ways to apply wallpaper to the wall that consist of wall glue or peel and stick
- ❖ Vinyl wallpaper are easily maintained and can be cleaned and washed
- ❖ This type of wallpaper is durable and long lasting.
- ❖ Vinyl wallpaper cover or hide several imperfections on the wall.

- ❖ Vinyl wallpapers are easily available in Pakistan.
  - d) *Disadvantage of vinyl wallpaper:*
- ❖ Vinyl wallpaper are expensive then paints.
- ❖ They may not be suitable in damp weather and needs to be maintained or perfected again.
- ❖ They cannot be applied directly on the concrete wall.
- ❖ The design or the pattern in the wallpaper needs to be aligned together.
- ❖ Color of the wallpaper gets affected by the lights and shadows present in the space.

#### *B. Material Used in Flooring*

##### *1) Engineered Oak Wood:*

###### *a) Defining oak wood:*

Oak wood is one of the most long-lasting type of wood. The grains of the oak wood are dark and tight that is suitable for any space. For hardwood or engineered flooring in homes, it is most commonly used type of wood. Oak wood if maintained properly it can last for various years. It is available in many different shades such as red oak, white oak, black oak and many others.

###### *b) Engineered oak wood flooring:*

Engineered oak flooring is built from oak wood which is adaptable and long-lasting. Engineered oak wood flooring is a popular type of flooring [22]. Furthermore, it can easily be substituted with solid oak wood as it looks similar to the real oak. Moreover, engineered oak flooring is built by various layers of ply wood which are attached to shape a firm and extremely durable core board. The core board is crowned with solid oak wood and the finished result look same and constant like solid oak flooring.

###### *c) Advantages of engineered oak flooring:*

- ❖ It is high in durability.
- ❖ It looks same as the real solid oak wood.
- ❖ It is cheaper than the solid oak wood.
- ❖ It can easily install.
- ❖ There is a huge choice of colors available.
- ❖ It has stress-free maintenance.
- ❖ Easily available in Pakistan.

*d) Disadvantages of engineered oak flooring:*

- ❖ The adhesive used for applying the engineered wood in the floor is quite strong so the people with breathing issue should take various precautions.
- ❖ They are different ply layers in engineered oak wood flooring, so it's important to learn about the ply layers in engineered oak flooring before applying it in the interior designing.

*2) Statement Rugs:*

*a) Defining statement rug:*

Statement rug is an element that adds drama and oomph to the flooring. It can be of different shapes and sizes. It is used to add aesthetics in the ambiance of cigar lounge [23]. These rugs are larger and cannot be displayed like statement rugs which are smaller in size. Statement rugs should be eye catching and different from the other upholstery present in the space. In this cigar lounge Victorian style statement rugs are used to create a look of opulence in the surroundings.

*b) Benefits of statement or area rug:*

- ❖ It helps in noise cancelation.
- ❖ Provides with comfort and warmth in the space.

*C. Materials Used in Ceilings*

*1) Plywood:*

Plywood is an engineered wood that is durable, resistant and the most adaptable manmade wood. It is manufactured by thin layers of wood veneer that are glued and pressed together to create a link. It is customizable and can be stained in different colors. Hence, plywood is highly preferred by the interior designers. Furthermore, it is made waterproof by applying several coats of waterproof solution. It is cost-efficient since solid wood is expensive.

*2) Coffered Ceiling:*

Coffered ceiling is a ceiling which is inspired by the renaissance and baroque period. Coffered ceiling is also known as indentation ceiling. Coffered ceiling absorbs sound and act as a noise cancelation element and gives the impression of wideness in the space. Coffered ceiling adds depth and drama in the space [24]. Coffered ceilings are best suitable with high ceiling.

*3) Lights:*

a) *Warm lights:*

Warm lights are the sort of light that adds drama and depth in the ambiance. It is the light that is close to nature and gives the feel of warmth and coziness by promoting relaxation in the lounge.

b) *Rope lights:*

Rope light is used in walls and niches for interior reasons. It is used for the decorative purpose and to create an ambiance by enhancing the mood of people in the lounge.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

The current study explores that one should have a clear perspective in order to create something unique. Since, cigar lounges are uncommon in Pakistan, therefore, creating a cigar lounge with a distinctive style was not only challenging; but can also be considered as a great initiative towards the entertainment industry. Moreover, the main purpose of the current research was to design a comfortable space for cigar aficionado in cigar lounge. Furthermore, the design of the cigar lounge is indulged into the ambiance of the smokers according to their status, cigar brand and the intellect of the cigar smoker.

Constructively, the cigar lounge is a fusion of 4 classic opulent styles. The purpose of this study is to convert this lounge into a place where there is no distraction and worries about the world. In this article, cigar lounge is specifically designed for the people who are genuinely cigar fanatic. This cigar lounge is also an initiative towards the reduction of air pollution. These sort of amusement spots should be developed in our country as they will enhance our entertainment industry. Hence, the basic task of this research was to design a cigar lounge which is a sheer blend of blazing ambiance for the pleasure and relish of cigar zealots.

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